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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/216,545	12/18/1998	THOMAS HAROLD ROESSLER	14.541	9533
23556	7590	06/08/2005	EXAMINER	
KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC. 401 NORTH LAKE STREET NEENAH, WI 54956			REICHLE, KARIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3761

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. <sup>6</sup>
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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Commissioner for Patents

see attached communication

*K.M. Reichle*  
Karin M. Reichle  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3761

**Notice of Non-Compliant  
Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)**

Application No.

09/216,545

Examiner

Karin M. Reichle

Applicant(s)

ROESSLER ET AL.

Art Unit

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

The amendment document filed on 27 May 2004 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121. In order for the amendment document to be compliant, correction of the following item(s) is required.

THE FOLLOWING MARKED (X) ITEM(S) CAUSE THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT TO BE NON-COMPLIANT:

- ☒ 1. Amendments to the specification:
  - ☐ A. Amended paragraph(s) do not include markings.
  - ☐ B. New paragraph(s) should not be underlined.
  - ☒ C. Other See Continuation Sheet.
- ☐ 2. Abstract:
  - ☐ A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.
  - ☐ B. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ 3. Amendments to the drawings:
  - ☐ A. The drawings are not properly identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet," "New Sheet," or "Annotated Sheet" as required by 37 CFR 1.121(d).
  - ☐ B. The practice of submitting proposed drawing correction has been eliminated. Replacement drawings showing amended figures, without markings, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 are required.
  - ☐ C. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ 4. Amendments to the claims:
  - ☒ A. A complete listing of all of the claims is not present.
  - ☐ B. The listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims)
  - ☒ C. Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. Note: the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following status identifiers: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Previously presented), (New), (Not entered), (Withdrawn) and (Withdrawn-currently amended).
  - ☐ D. The claims of this amendment paper have not been presented in ascending numerical order.
  - ☒ E. Other: See Continuation Sheet.

For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP § 714 and the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/officeflyer.pdf>.

**TIME PERIODS FOR FILING A REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:**

1. Applicant is given **no new time period** if the non-compliant amendment is an after-final amendment or an amendment filed after allowance. If applicant wishes to resubmit the non-compliant after-final amendment with corrections, the **entire corrected amendment** must be resubmitted within the time period set forth in the final Office action.
2. Applicant is given **one month**, or thirty (30) days, whichever is longer, from the mail date of this notice to supply the **corrected section** of the non-compliant amendment in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121, if the non-compliant amendment is one of the following: a preliminary amendment, a non-final amendment (including a submission for a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114), a supplemental amendment filed within a suspension period under 37 CFR 1.103(a) or (c), and an amendment filed in response to a *Quayle* action.

**Extensions of time** are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a) only if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a *Quayle* action.

**Failure to timely respond** to this notice will result in:

**Abandonment** of the application if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a *Quayle* action; or

**Non-entry** of the amendment if the non-compliant amendment is a preliminary amendment or supplemental amendment.

Continuation of 1(c) Other: The proposed Summary of the Invention section does not show the changes made to the last version of the Summary which was approved, i.e. the 12-18-02 version, a copy of which is attached. The copy of the proposed Summary, due either to it being FAXed or as typed, includes missing letters, e.g. in the first full paragraph, line 4.

Continuation of 4(e) Other: The listing of the claims does not set forth the status of claims 1-31. Claims 41-48 are not original claims but rather were previously presented. The copy of the proposed claims, due either to it being FAXed or as typed, includes missing letters, e.g. the preamble of claim 49. The proposed text of claim 49 does not show the changes made to the last accepted text of claim 49, see last section of claim 49 and compare to 1-23-04 text of claim 49.

Clean Version of the Amended Summary of the Invention:Summary of The Invention

In response to the difficulties and problems discussed above, new pant-like disposable absorbent articles which have an easy opening feature and methods of making the same have been discovered. In one aspect, the present invention concerns a pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects the waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction. The absorbent article includes an absorbent chassis, a pair of opposed <sup>elastic</sup> back panels and a pair of opposed <sup>elastic</sup> front panels. The absorbent chassis defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite the exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges. The opposed back panels are <sup>respectively</sup> permanently attached to the side edges of the absorbent chassis in the back waist region of the absorbent article. The opposed front panels are <sup>respectively</sup> refastenably attached to the side edges of the absorbent chassis in the front waist region of the absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint. The front panel and back panel on each side edge of the absorbent chassis extend laterally outward from the absorbent chassis and are permanently connected together along a side seam to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide the pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

In yet another aspect, the present invention concerns a pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects the waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction. The absorbent article includes an absorbent chassis which defines an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite the exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges. The absorbent article also includes a pair of opposed <sup>elastic</sup> back panels which are <sup>respectively</sup> permanently attached to the side edges of the absorbent chassis in the back waist region of the absorbent article. The absorbent article also includes a pair of opposed <sup>elastic</sup> front panels which are <sup>respectively</sup> refastenably attached to the side edges of the absorbent chassis in the front waist region of the absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint. The front panel and the back panel on each side edge of the absorbent chassis are permanently connected together along a side seam to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide the pant-like,

prefastened, refastenably disposable absorbent article. The absorbent article also includes a fastener located on each of the front panels which are releasably engaged with the exterior surface of the absorbent chassis in the front waist region to provide the refastenable joint. The absorbent article finally includes a releasable bond located on each of the front panels which releasably bonds the front panels to the side edges of the absorbent chassis in the front waist region to assist in maintaining the pant-like, prefastened, disposable absorbent article in the prefastened condition.

In yet another aspect, the present invention concerns a pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article which defines a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects the waist regions, an absorbent chassis which defines a pair of opposed side edges and a pair of opposed waist edges. The pant-like, disposable absorbent article is made by a process which includes:

- a) providing a continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis;
- b) permanently attaching a pair of laterally opposed elastic back panels to the side edges of each of the absorbent chassis in the back waist region to provide a permanent joint;
- c) refastenably attaching a pair of laterally opposed elastic front panels to the side edges of each of the absorbent chassis in the front waist region of the absorbent article to provide a refastenable joint;
- d) selectively cutting the continuous web of interconnected absorbent chassis into discrete absorbent articles;
- e) folding each of the discrete absorbent articles about a fold line extending in a lateral direction through the crotch region of the article thereby positioning the front panels and the back panels in a facing relationship; and
- f) permanently connecting the front panels and the back panels together along a pair of laterally opposed side seams to define a waist opening and a pair of leg openings and provide the pant-like, prefastened, refastenable, disposable absorbent article.

The present invention advantageously provides pant-like, refastenable disposable absorbent articles which include an easy opening feature and methods of making the same. In particular, the present invention provides pant-like disposable absorbent articles which are capable of being

02 reliably pulled up or down over the hips of the wearer to assist in the toilet training of the wearer similar to conventional training pants. Moreover, similar to conventional diapers, the pant-like disposable absorbent articles of the present invention can advantageously be applied to and removed from the wearer similar to conventional diapers after they have been soiled with relative ease and cleanliness. Further, the pant-like disposable absorbent articles of the present invention allow easy inspection by the care giver to assist in determining whether the article is soiled similar to conventional diapers.

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